

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 02230 192325Z
ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 L-03 /019 W
-----087586 192331Z /65
R 132301Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9919

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 2230

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, GT
SUBJ: ALLEGED STATE RESTRICTION OF DEA

REF: STATE 083084

1. EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED FILES AND COLLECTIVE MEMORY FOR PAST ACTIONS WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED AS EITHER RESTRAINING DEA OR VETOING ITS OPERATIONS. FOLLOWING INCIDENTS COULD CONCEIVABLY BE AMONG THOSE ALLUDED TO BY DEA ADMINISTRATOR BENSINGER IN HIS RESPONSE TO CONGRESSMAN WOLFF:

(A) IN LATE 1975 AMBASSADOR MELOY VETOED A LOCAL DEA PROPOSAL THAT THE DEA REPRESENTATIVE ACCOMPANY THE NATIONAL POLICE ON A DRUG RAID IN PANAJACHEL, A LOCALE FREQUENTED BY YOUNG AMERICAN HIPPIES. THE PURPOSE OF THE DEA REQUEST WAS TO GAIN FIRST-HAND FAMILIARITY WITH THE WAY THE POLICE CONDUCTED ITS ANTI-DRUG OPERATIONS. THE AMBASSADOR WANTED TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY OF USG EXPOSURE IN ARREST SITUATIONS. AS IT TURNED OUT, AN AMERICAN WAS ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF COCAINE WHO LATER MAINTAINED HE HAD BEEN SET UP BY THE AUTHORITIES. THE AMBASSADOR'S CAUTION ON THAT OCCASION ANTICIPATED THE MANSFIELD AMENDMENT RESTRICTIONS.

(B) DURING THE SAME PERIOD, DEA PROPOSED FURNISHING OFFICE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GUATEM 02230 192325Z

FURNITURE AND POSSIBLY A CAR (OR MONEY TO BUY ONE) TO THE POLICE NARCOTICS SECTION. AMBASSADOR MELOY DISAPPROVED THE IDEA ON GROUNDS THE NARCOTICS SECTION HAD YET TO DEMONSTRATE ITS SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE, THAT THE CAR MIGHT BE MISUSED FOR NON-OFFICIAL PURPOSES, AND THAT THE MONEY COULD BE MORE PROFITABLY EMPLOYED IN OTHER WAYS.

(C) IN APRIL 1976, AMBASSADOR MELOY DENIED PERMISSION TO INSTALL DEA RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH DEA HEADQUARTERS. 76 GUATEMALA 3689 INDICATED THAT THE REASONS FOR THE DENIAL WERE THOSE SET FORTH IN 76 STATE 75176 AND 80079. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION WAS THE AMBASSADOR'S BELIEF THAT HIS OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES REQUIRED THE EMBASSY TO BE PRIVY TO ALL DEA COMMUNICATIONS OF SUBSTANCE.

2. NONE OF ABOVE CONSTITUTE "VETOING" OF DEA OPERATIONS PER SE. INSTEAD, THEY REPRESENT RESTRAINTS PLACED ON CERTAIN DEA ACTIVITIES.

3. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ISOLATE EXAMPLES OF EMBASSY SUPPORT FOR DEA ACTIVITIES, BUT BELIEVE EMBASSY HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT REINFORCING ROLE. RECENT INSTANCE HAS BEEN JOINT EMBASSY/DEA EFFORT TO GET MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT TO UPGRADE THE NARCOTICS SECTION (SEE OUR A-22 OF MARCH 2, 1978).
BOSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERAGENCY COOPERATION, DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GUATEM02230
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780168-0307
Format: TEL
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780459/aaaabycv.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c862a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 STATE 83084
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2974837
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED STATE RESTRICTION OF DEA
TAGS: SNAR, GT, DEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c862a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014